

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 3107

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E.O.11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, BR, CASC (MORRIS, FREDERICK)

SUBJECT: WITHDRAWAL OF FOURTH ARMY INVITATION

REF: BRASILIA 3044

1. EMBASSY, CERTAIN FROM THE OUTSET THAT RECENT RECIFE INCIDENT WAS DIRECTLY TIED TO FORTH ARMY'S CONTINUING RESENTMENT OVER MORRIS CASE, HAS FURTHER INFORMATION CONFIRMING THIS LINKAGE.

2. ON SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 1975, CARL SCHULTZ, BPAO RECIFE, TALKED WITH COL. NEIVA TAVORA, G-5 (PLUBLIC RLEATIONS) OF THE FOURTH ARMY AT A PRIVATE SOCIAL OCCASION. WITHOUT ANY PROMPTING, COL. NEIVA TAVORA BEGAN BY ASKING HOW MUCH LONGER BROWN WAS GOING TO REMAIN IN BRAZIL. THE COLONEL EXPRESSED WURPRISE THAT BROWN WOULD STAY ON, SINCE THE FORTH ARMY WAS HOLDING HIM RESPONSIBLE FOR HAVING "LIED TO THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR" OVER THE MORRIS CASE. BROWN, HE SAID, TOOK THE WORK OF MORRIS WHO WAS A QUOTE KNOW SUBVERSIVE UNQUOTE. TAVORA CLAIMED BROWN SHOULD HAVE CHECKED MORRIS' ALLEGATIONS WITH THE FORTH ARMY COMMANDING GENERAL BEFORE COMMMMUNICATIING THEM.

3. COL. TAVORA ALSO INSISTED (AS THE FOURTH ARMY HAS FROM THE BEGINNING) THAT MORRIS WAS NOT TORTURED BUT THE "MARKS ON HIS WRISTS WERE THE RESULTS OF HIS RESISTING ARREST."

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4. IN SPITE OF SCHULTZ' REJOINDER THAT BROWN REPORTED ACCURATELY

AND WAS NOT CONCERNED WITH WHETHER MORRIS WAS SUBVERSIVE OR NOT, BUT WITH THE NECESSITY OF PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF AN AMERICAN CITIZEN UNDER THE TERMS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, COL. TAVOR INDICATED THAT THAT WAS NOT THE VIEW OF THE FOURTH ARMY.

5. THE COLONEL ADDED THAT THE "GOB SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED DECLARING BOTH THE AMBASSADOR AND THE CONSUL PERSONA NON GRATA AS A RESULT OF THE MORRIS INCIDENT,BUT DECIDED NOT TO TAKE ANY DRASTIC ACTION IN HOPES THAT THE USG WOULD RECOGNIZE THE NATURE OF THE SITUATION." HE SAID: "THE AMBASSADOR WAS FORCED LATER TO RETREAT WITH HIS TAIL BETWEEN HIS LEGS."

COMMENT: COL.TAVORA IS THE FOURTH ARMY'S KEY MAN FOR PLANNING CEREMONIES, ISSUING INVITATIONS, ETC. HE OBVIOUSLY KNEW OF AND PROBABLY EXECUTED THE ORDER WITHDRAWING THE INVITATION LAST WEEK. IT IS EXTREMELY UNLIKELY THAT HE WOULD BE ACTING ON HIS OWN ON A MATTER SUCH AS THIS. HE UNDOUBTEDLY RECEIVED ORDERS FOR HIS ACTIONS FROM HIS SUPERIORS, AS IS TYPICAL IN THE COMMAND STRUCTURE HERE.

THE TAVORA-SCHULTZ CONVERSATION ONLY STRENGTHENS THE EMBASSY'S DESIRE TO MOVE QUICKLY IN EXPRESSING ITS VIEWS OVER THIS INCIDENT TO ITAMARATY. IN OUR JUDGMENT, ITAMARATY IS THE BEST POINT TO REGISTER OUR CONCERN AND A THIRD PERSON NOTE (OR AN AIDE MEMOIRE) SHOULD MAKE OUR POSITION CLEAR. THE FOURTH ARMY COMMANDER IS NOT ACCESSIBLE AT THE PRESENT TIME TO OUR CONSUL, AND ANY APPROACH TO HIM WOULD BE INEFFECTIVE IN ANY CASE SINCE HE WOULD BRUSH OFF OUR OBJECTIONS, PERHAPS REITERATING PORTIONS OF TAVORA'S LINE.

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